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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 18 | Humidity 66% Sunny Sensex 84,404 | Nifty 25,877 | Gold 1,20,158 | Silver 1,45,850 | Dollar 88.72 | Euro 102.45 | GBP 116.42

STRAY ORDER

GBA scrambles to put together compliance report on city's ABC programme as it has to be submitted in SC next week

PAGE 5

CALL OF THE WILD

Too little? K'taka govt decides to cut down 1 safari in Bandipur, Nagarhole to reduce disturbance to animals

PAGE 6

Either they are more resilient to urbanisation or the impact is yet to register — whatever the reason, first study in over 2 decades reveals city is home to at least 322 kinds of frogs and toads of 11 species

FROG OUT OF THE WELL

Of 32 sites tested for pollution, 16 were found to be heavily polluted — only cricket frog and common toad could survive here

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PAGE 2: CRAWL RIGHT IN

In the first-of-its-kind study conducted over the last two decades, Bengaluru city has been identified as home to at least 322 frogs and toads of 11 different species.

A group of researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Gubbi Labs, and Dakshin Foundation have identified these species at 32 locations spread across the city, including public parks, institutional campuses, and wetlands.

However, among the 11 species of frogs and toads, only five were encountered across different built-up categories.

According to researchers, the study looks at the impact of urbanisation on sensitive groups like frogs and toads. However, contrary to expectations that increasing built-up areas would lead to a sharp decline in their assemblages across different intensities of built-up area categories, the survey revealed surprising similarities. However, areas within the city limits recorded fewer species compared to outside it.

"Our findings point to the possibility that either anurans are currently more resilient to urbanisation than previously presumed or that there is a lag phase before the impacts of urbanisation on species richness are detected," researchers have noted. The frogs and toads were identified between February 2022 and September 2022, during the pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons, either using visual or acoustic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"When lakes, ponds, and smaller water bodies are polluted, the eggs and tadpoles of these frogs are exposed to toxins and have less access to clean and safe food

— Maria Thaker, Center for Ecological Sciences, IISc

In due time

Over 2 lakh property owners have defaulted on tax totalling Rs 648 crore; B'luru North tops defaulters' list

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The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is grappling with a major revenue crisis — rampant property tax evasion. Across the city's five municipal zones, a staggering 2,36,886 property owners have defaulted on dues totaling ₹648.41 crore. Bengaluru North tops the list with ₹179.34 crore in arrears, followed by Bengaluru West (₹119.88 crore), Bengaluru East (₹118.40 crore), Bengaluru South (₹118.39 crore), and Bengaluru Central (₹112.40 crore).

Compounding the problem, 41,393 properties have been found outside the tax network, leading to a potential ₹94.35 crore revenue loss. Further audits revealed 10,432 under declared or misused properties, where owners reported smaller areas or paid residential taxes for commercial use. GBA has issued recovery notices seeking ₹156.71 crore in differential taxes, with Bengaluru West alone accounting for 3,207 such cases and ₹52.70 crore in penalties and back-tax recovery.

Meanwhile, five municipal corporations under the GBA have recorded a major setback in property tax collection, managing to achieve only 50% of the annual target

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Art side up

St Joseph's Boys' High School is presenting its much-awaited annual art and craft exhibition – MERAKI, The Love and Soul of Art, Season 3. This year's edition promises to be a vibrant celebration of creativity, imagination, and artistic expression, showcasing the exceptional talents of students, parents, and teachers.
Where: St Joseph's Boys' High School, Ashok Nagar;
When: October 31, 9 am to 7 pm

02 Curtain call

The Auroville Theatre Group is presenting 'Call me Devika', a play about Devika Rani, who co-founded Bombay Talkies, one of India's earliest film studios. The play is the first in a longer series exploring the legacies of forgotten women who shaped history in invisible ways.
Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield;
When: October 31, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm

03 Divine art

Kuchipudi Parampara Foundation, Bengaluru, is presenting the 12th edition of Natya Parampara Utsav 2025. The programmes include recognition works of a senior Kuchipudi guru along with Kuchipudi performances.

Where: Seva Sadan Auditorium, Malleshwaram;
When: October 31, 6 pm

04 Who let the dogs out

Bangalore Canine Club is presenting the 131st & 132nd All India Championship Dog Shows alongside the 59th & 60th Bangalore Canine Club Championship Show. This year's show will feature 450–500 pedigreed dogs representing over 50 breeds.
Where: Esha Farms & Leisure, Yelahanka;
When: November 1 and 2

05 Souk it up

'Salaam Souk', hosted this year with the theme of 'Habibi, welcome to Dubai', inspired by the glamour, opulence and vibrancy of the Middle East, presents an exclusive shopping experience.
Where: Jayamahal Palace;
When: November 8, 1 pm

Back in the web, a century later

New spider species discovered in Karnataka belongs to genus last recorded over 100 years ago; female of genus documented for first time, making findings unique

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For the first time in 123 years, scientists have discovered a new spider species from the rare genus Pilia and it has been found in Karnataka. Named Pilia malenadu, this discovery is unique for reviving a genus last recorded over a century ago, but also historic as it includes the first ever description of the female of this genus. In a tribute to the land and its identity, the species has been given a Kannada name, celebrating the strong bond between local biodiversity and cultural heritage. This rediscovery marks a milestone in Indian arachnology and shines a spotlight on the ecological richness of the Western Ghats.

This study provides the first-ever account of the natural history of Pilia malenadu, offering new insights into its habitat and behaviour. It also underscores how much of the Western Ghats' hidden biodiversity still remains unknown and waiting to be explored.

The study has been published in Zootaxa and was conducted by John TD Caleb from the Department of Anatomy, Saveetha Medical College & Hospital, along with members of the Team Saaliga, Ajith Padiyar, APC Abhijith, and Jitesh Pai.

According to the paper, the jumping spider genus Pilia Simon, 1902, previously documented from just three species and exclusively male specimens, has remained taxonomically unclear due to limited material and uncertain placement within the Salticidae family. "During recent field surveys in Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka, we rediscovered the genus in the wild after 123 years and collected both male and female specimens, leading to the description of a new species, Pilia malenadu sp nov," the report stated. It highlighted that the work represents the first documented female of the genus.

Various new species of spiders are identified frequently in Karnataka's Western Ghats

Study provides first-ever account of natural history of Pilia malenadu, offering new insights into its habitat and behaviour

Abhijith said, "During a recent field survey in the tropical forests near Kudremukh, Karnataka, we collected both male and female specimens that were later identified as belonging to the genus Pilia." He said that this marks the first documented sighting of the genus in the wild after 123 years and includes the first-ever record and description of a female of this genus.

Speaking about the diagnosis, Abhijith highlighted that Pilia looks similar to the genus Bristowia, as both have long, strong front legs with thick fringes of hair underneath the first leg's tibia. He explained that Pilia can be easily distinguished by several features: it has a patch of thick hairs near each posterior lateral eye (which Bristowia lacks), and its front leg segments (femur and tibia) are much more thickened, while in Bristowia they are long but not thick. "In males, the reproductive organ (palp) has a simple, smooth bulb without any bumps, the tegulum has a taller shoulder, and the small projection near the embolus is tiny, unlike the prominent one in Bristowia," he said, adding that in females, the epigyne is simple with two round openings, the copulatory ducts are long and form a forward loop, and the spermathecae are long and tube-shaped instead of rounded as in Bristowia.

Between January 2024 and March 2025, researchers observed 24 specimens of Pilia malenadu sp nov, including 17 males, 3 females, and 4 juveniles. All spiders were seen during the daytime between 10 am and 5 pm. Interestingly, they were found only on two plant species, Memecylon umbellatum and Memecylon malabaricum. The spiders usually stayed hidden between the leaves, showing a strong preference for this microhabitat and suggesting they are shy in nature. A female was also seen guarding her egg sac and newly hatched spiderlings.

A notable observation took place on March 14, 2025, in the Kudremukh region, where a male Pilia malenadu was found with a parasitic wasp larva attached to it, hidden between the leaves of Memecylon malabaricum. This is the first recorded case of parasitism in this species and indicates a possible new host-parasite relationship between a parasitoid wasp and a jumping spider species in the tropical forests of this region.

QPL 2.0 trophy and jersey unveiled; season set to begin from November 10

The second season of the Queen's Premier League (QPL), presented by KNS Infrastructure, will begin on November 10 with a pre-event at E-Zone, Marathahalli, followed by the main tournament from November 11 to 15 at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium.

The trophy and jersey of QPL 2.0 were unveiled in Bengaluru by Olympian and Padma Shri awardee Anju Bobby George in the presence of Dr K Govindaraj, MLC and President of the Karnataka Olympic Association and FIBA Asia, Mahesh Gowda, Founder of QPL, and Pramod Shetty, co-founder.

Trophy and jersey of QPL 2.0 were unveiled in Bengaluru by Olympian and Padma Shri awardee Anju Bobby George

This season, QPL will include 12 sports events along with freestyle dance and fashion contests. The league will see participation from female celebrities representing film, television, media, and influencer circles. Actress Ramya will serve as the face of the league. The player auction for QPL Season 2 was held on October 25 in the presence of KN Surendra, Managing Director of KNS Infrastructure, the title sponsor. Speaking at the event, Anju Bobby George said that sports promote discipline and help in holistic development. QPL Founder Mahesh Gowda said that the league aims to promote women's participation in sports while supporting the message of a healthy, drug-free society. **–BMB**

Strict action against PGs and hostels without licences

The Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) has issued a stern warning to all Paying Guest (PG) and hostel operators running without valid trade licences, directing them to obtain the mandatory permits within seven days or face strict action, including sealing of premises and heavy penalties.

According to the BECC, a large number of PG accommodations and hostels are functioning in violation of civic norms and safety regulations. The corporation's recent inspections revealed widespread irregularities — including operations in residential zones without approval, poor hygiene standards, absence of fire safety measures, and failure to install CCTV surveillance systems as required under existing rules. Officials noted that such violations pose serious risks to public safety and health.

In response, the city corporation has launched a special enforcement drive to identify and regulate unauthorised PGs and hostels operating within its jurisdiction. All establishments found non-compliant will be penalised, and their premises sealed if they fail to secure the necessary licences within the stipulated time. **–BMB**

STATUE OF UNITY
एक भारत, श्रेष्ठ भारत.

EKTA DIWAS

31 October

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

The grateful Nation fondly remembers Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 150th Birth Anniversary

Prime Minister

SHRI NARENDRA MODI

will offer floral tributes to the Iron Man of India and address the Nation in his remembrance

On this Ekta Diwas, let us participate in large numbers in the 'Run for Unity' being organized in our district and strengthen the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'

EKTA DIWAS EVENTS

- Ekta Parade
- Brass band performances
- Horse, dog, and camel contingents
- Martial arts showcase by women performers
- BSF Dog show (Indigenous Breed)
- Daredevil riders' performance
- School band presentation
- AIR show by the Indian Air Force
- "Loh-Purush" – A Theatrical Presentation Based on the Life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- Celebration of Ekta Light Festival
- State exhibitions from 1st to 15th November under Bharat Parv

"Rashtriya Ekta Diwas honours Sardar Patel's invaluable contribution towards unifying the nation. May this day strengthen the bonds of unity in our society."

-Narendra Modi

CBC 19101/13/0022/2526

Date: Friday, 31 October 2025 | Venue: Parade Ground, Statue of Unity, Ekta Nagar, Gujarat | Time: 7.00 AM onwards

The event will be broadcast live on DD News

Months of muck: Cox Town's drain fix left hanging

Leaking pipes, sewage overflow make life difficult as residents await BWSSB, BBMP action

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For nearly nine months, residents of Cox Town have been living with the stench and risk of sewage water contamination due to a leaking underground drainage line in the conservancy lane between Sundar Murthy Road and Thambuchetty Road. Despite repeated complaints to the BWSSB (Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board), and the former civic body BBMP engineers and health inspectors, no permanent solution has been provided.

The issue began last December when the main sewage line, a 30–40-year-old pipeline, started leaking. According to residents, they had approached former BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath, who then directed BWSSB officials to begin the work. The old, narrow pipes had eroded over time as they couldn't handle the capacity, worsened by bandicoot infestations and age. BWSSB later replaced the lines, and all residents from Sundar Murthy Road and Thambuchetty Road paid for the connections. However, the work was left incomplete in February, and the conservancy lane was not concreted.

A resident of Cox Town said, "Since the trench was left open, every time it rains, the silt flows back into the sump, contaminating the water. We are now getting water with silt, through our taps. For many families who have senior citizens or children it's extremely difficult.

With silt and sewage entering their water tanks, residents say the motor in their apartment's sump has stopped working due to heavy clogging. Repairing and replacing it is expected to cost around Rs 2 lakh. Many households have now resorted to purchasing water tankers for daily use, while using corporation water.

Residents say they have reached out to BWSSB engineers several times to close the drain but nothing has been done. Since it's open now, residents nearby are throwing garbage in it. While the other residents reported it to BBMP health inspectors, no action followed. Fewer times pourakarmikas, and marshals came in for help. "Officials came, inspected, and left. The problem remains the same. No one is ready to take responsibility," another resident said.

Residents said they approached former BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath, who directed BWSSB officials to start work

"In one of the houses, there is a cancer survivor, and this situation is unbearable. There are families with small children here and the health risk is serious
– A Cox Town resident

Locals are now urging the authorities to immediately complete the concreting and restore the water and sewage lines properly. "This is not just about inconvenience, it's a health hazard," the resident added.

Despite repeated reminders and the worsening situation, residents say the authorities have continued to remain silent, leaving the community to fend for itself.

Pothole-free Bengaluru still a distant dream

Even as the government assures Bengaluru will be pothole-free by November, residents continue to struggle with cratered streets and risky commutes. At No. 6, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, opposite Canara Bank Road near Malabar Mess, Dasarahalli Main Road, two large potholes on the busy stretch have become a nightmare for motorists and pedestrians alike. Locals say repeated complaints have gone unanswered, forcing them to navigate dangerous diversions daily.

Two massive potholes have remained here for months

"This road sees heavy traffic all day. Two massive potholes have remained here for months — vehicles swerve suddenly to avoid them, causing near-miss accidents almost every day," said Ravi Kumar, a resident. "We've heard enough assurances, but nothing changes."

Commuters citywide echo similar concerns as uneven surfaces, half-filled trenches, and damaged drains make driving perilous. Activists demand time-bound repairs instead of hollow deadlines. –BMB

Garbage, rainwater turn street into mosquito hub

In Muninanjappa Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, residents are battling a double civic nightmare — stagnant rainwater and uncollected garbage. The 4th Cross has turned into a breeding ground for mosquitoes, posing serious health risks. Locals allege that BBMP workers visit the area irregularly, leaving behind heaps of refuse and clogged drains.

Garbage mixes with water, creating unbearable stench

"We have complained multiple times, but no one comes to clean up unless the media highlights it."

Health experts warn that such neglect can trigger outbreaks of dengue and viral infections. "Neglected pockets like these become invisible health hazards for entire neighborhoods," noted Dr Arpitha Rao, a public health specialist. Despite civic promises of improved waste management, residents say the situation has worsened this monsoon. With winter approaching, they urge authorities to take swift dewatering and desilting measures to prevent further contamination. –BMB

Civic action rekindles hope for lake rejuvenation

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Residents of Kithaganur and nearby areas have expressed satisfaction with the revenue authorities for finally conducting a survey of Kithaganur Lake, pending for years. The Kithaganur Gram Panchayat had been waiting for the revenue department to clear encroachments on the lake area.

"We have escalated the issue of encroachment. Groundwater is contaminated due to polluted water in the lake. We have complained to all the authorities, including the Panchayat Development Officer, urging them to clear encroachments and develop the lake," said VP Krishna, Founder, KR Puram Constituency Association Welfare Federation.

Revenue officials surveying Kithaganur Lake

He said tahsildar and revenue officials visited the lake on Wednesday. "It is the first proper survey being conducted as per revenue documents. We expect authorities to clear encroachments and develop the lake. Though it's the second day of the survey, no officials from Kithaganur Panchayat have visited the site," he added.

Echoing similar views, resident Sujitha Aravind said, "A rejuvenated lake will improve groundwater, provide space for recreation, and benefit both nature and the community. We also plan to plant saplings to ensure greenery."

Residents and lake activists said sewage from nearby apartments continues to flow into the lake, contaminating groundwater. They stressed the need for a sewage treatment plant to treat wastewater from nearly 50 apartment complexes.

Lakshmi, President of Kithaganur Gram Panchayat, said, "Some people have illegally occupied the lake land. We will develop the lake after revenue authorities clear encroachments." The Panchayat Development Officer said Rs 4 crore has been sanctioned for the lake's development.

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Illegal display
Padmanabhanagar

Despite the citywide ban, flex banners continue to appear—one recently fell on the Devegowda Bunk flyover, endangering motorists.

Neglected repair
Horamavu

Residents of 1st Cross, Water Tank Road, Horamavu, urge BBMP to act as encroached road and incomplete drainage work remain neglected for seven years despite bills raised for repairs.

Debris mess
KH Road

Debris left unattended for months on KH Road, Sudhamanagar, has made the footpath unusable and needs immediate clearance.

Feeding spots found, action still lagging

Supreme Court summons pushes GBA to scramble compliance report on city's ABC programme

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Feeding spots identified, immunisation ongoing, but officials admit progress is slow. Welfare activists warn Karnataka unlikely to meet rabies elimination targets by 2030

Following the Supreme Court's summons on October 27, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has rushed to prepare a compliance affidavit concerning stray dog management across all five city corporations.

GBA has prepared a report on the current status of animal birth control, sterilisation, and immunisation processes, along with the identification of feeding spots in the city, to be submitted to the Supreme Court by Karnataka's chief secretary on November 3, together with the compliance status from the rest of the state.

According to GBA officials, a few feeding spots, in line with the Supreme Court's order of August 22, have been identified in the city, and immunisation is being conducted as per the ABC Rule, 2023.

"We had identified 135 feeding spots last year for BBMP's feeding drive. A few more feeding spots have been identified across all five corporations, in consultation with local feeders and caretakers. However, since it is an ongoing process and requires meticulous planning, it will take some time. ABC and immunisation are going on as per the rules," said a senior GBA official.

Karnataka will also report in its affidavit on the feasibility of the Supreme Court's directives and the gaps that the state and Bengaluru need to address to implement the order.

The Supreme Court's order on August 22, mandated the formulation of a policy regarding sterilisation, deworming, and immunisation of stray dogs as per the Animal Birth Control Rule, 2023.

City-based animal welfare workers say there has been no movement on the ground by GBA officials since the Supreme Court's order two months ago.

Given the current scenario, Karnataka is unlikely to meet its target under the State Action Plan for Rabies Elimination (SAPRE).

Harini Raghavan of Citizens for Animal Birth Control said GBA has remained silent since the Supreme Court's August directive, with no citizen or animal welfare engagement. Under SAPRE, five Karnataka districts, including Bengaluru, aim to be rabies-free by 2030 through vaccination, dog population control, surveillance, and community awareness. She stressed the chief secretary's office must lead the programme to ensure both human and animal welfare.

Priya Chetty-Rajagopal of CJ Memorial Trust noted slow progress due to frequent leadership changes in Animal Husbandry, understaffing at the Karnataka Animal Welfare Board, and limited service providers for the ABC/ARV programme.

Grieving family targeted for cash

Alleged bribery by Bellandur police personnel during a family's most vulnerable moment has led to the suspension of a sub-inspector and a constable. The action follows former BPCL Chief Administrative Officer K Shivakumar sharing a detailed account of his ordeal on social media, accusing police officials, ambulance staff, and even cemetery workers of demanding money after the death of his daughter.

Akshaya SivaKumar, an IIM Ahmedabad graduate, died of a brain haemorrhage on September 18. While the family was still grappling with the tragedy, ambulance staff allegedly demanded ₹3,000 to transport her body from Kasavanahalli Hospital to St John's Hospital in Koramangala. Matters worsened when Bellandur police personnel, instead of offering support, allegedly behaved rudely and obstructed procedures.

Shivakumar revealed that even after his daughter's post-mortem, following which he voluntarily donated her eyes, officials demanded bribes during the funeral formalities. Four days later, when he visited the police station to collect the post-mortem report, a sub-inspector allegedly demanded money again, taking the bribe inside the station at a spot without CCTV coverage.

Shivakumar later revealed officials demanded he pay their subordinates too. "I had money. But what about the poor?" he wrote on X. **BMB**

Engineer targeted in daylight road rage attack

A 29-year-old software engineer was assaulted by an unidentified scooter rider in a case of escalating road rage near 26th Main Road, 6th Phase, JP Nagar, on Wednesday. The incident occurred within the Puttenahalli police station limits, just a day after the death of a delivery agent in a separate road rage case in the same area.

The victim, identified as Pratik Tarafdar, a resident of Pai Layout in Hulimavu, was heading to his office around 11:20 am when the confrontation took place.

According to the FIR, Tarafdar was riding along 31st Cross, 26th Main Road, when a scooter rider coming from the opposite direction brushed against his bike while taking a turn.

The rider allegedly became aggressive, snatching the keys from Tarafdar's bike. When Tarafdar demanded his keys back, a verbal altercation ensued.

Tarafdar eventually managed to retrieve his keys and was preparing to leave when the assailant suddenly struck him on the head with a sharp object. As the victim began bleeding, the attacker fled the scene.

Police said Tarafdar sustained minor injuries in the attack. Following his complaint, a case has been registered under Section 118 (causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Officers are currently examining CCTV footage from the vicinity to trace the accused. **BMB**

Wanted phone, received stone instead

A 43-year-old Bengaluru resident lost ₹1,86,999 in an online shopping scam after he received a stone instead of the Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 7 smartphone he ordered on Amazon. A complaint has been registered in Kumaraswamy Layout. A Yelachenahalli resident ordered a Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 7 on October 14, 2025, paying 1,86,999 via HDFC credit card. The package, delivered on October 19, contained a square stone instead of the phone. He recorded the unboxing and immediately lodged a complaint on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, later filing a formal police report. Police have registered a case, and the investigation is ongoing. **BMB**

1 safari less to protect wildlife: Is that enough?

Forest Department limits daily safaris in Bandipur and Nagarahole after rising complaints of noise, stress, and wildlife displacement near villages

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The call of the wild in Karnataka's forests is increasingly drowned by the rumble of jeeps and the chatter of tourists. What began as a noble initiative to promote eco-tourism and nature awareness has spiralled into a full-blown safari rush, turning once-serene wildlife zones into bustling tourist circuits.

Alarmed by mounting complaints from villagers, farmers, and conservationists, the Forest Department has decided to cut one safari trip per day in the state's premier reserves — Bandipur and Nagarahole — effective October 28. The decision follows growing evidence that over-tourism is disturbing the delicate rhythm of forest life.

Multiple safari trips, often extending beyond permitted hours, have flooded tiger reserves with the glare of headlights and the noise of diesel engines. These constant intrusions, officials say, are altering animal behaviour — driving elephants, leopards, and even tigers closer to the fringes of human settlements. "The loud engines and bright lights frighten animals during dawn and dusk when they are most active," a senior forest officer explained.

Farmers living near forest edges have reported an alarming rise in animal movement near farmlands. They believe constant disturbances are pushing wildlife out of their natural habitats, creating conflict and crop losses. Responding to these concerns, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre instructed officials to restrict the number of safaris and review tourism pressure across all forest divisions. "Tourism must not come at the cost of wildlife safety," he asserted.

Forest officials warn of behavioral shifts among predators and herbivores as increased vehicle activity and tourist noise invade fragile habitats, disrupting feeding patterns and natural movement cycles

Amid mounting evidence of habitat disruption, Karnataka reduces one safari per day in its top tiger reserves, aiming to restore calm to forests increasingly disturbed by tourist influx and vehicle noise

Bandipur currently operates eight safaris with 28 vehicles, while K. Gudi conducts two trips using seven vehicles. Veeranahosahalli manages two trips with four vehicles, Nanchhi Gate runs four trips with nine, and Kakanakote handles four safaris using 42 vehicles, including three jeeps. Officials note that wild animals typically move out in search of food during early mornings and evenings. Herbivores like deer venture towards forest fringes, followed by predators such as tigers and leopards.

However, this natural rhythm has been increasingly disrupted. In K Gudi, for instance, the 35-km safari zone now overlaps with school and vehicular activity in nearby villages. "The glare of headlights at night causes distress to animals and can even harm their eyesight," said another official.

While the decision to trim one safari is seen as a welcome step, conservationists insist that Karnataka must adopt a stricter model—like Kerala's—by capping visitor numbers, regulating timings, enforcing noise restrictions, and ensuring that eco-tourism truly safeguards rather than threatens the wilderness it celebrates.

GBA met just 50% of its property tax collection target

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

within the first seven months of the financial year. Compared to the same period last year, the overall tax collection has dropped sharply. Taking serious note of this, the GBA has issued a stern warning to the municipal bodies stating that failure to improve collection could push them into financial insolvency. "Without adequate tax recovery, the corporations will struggle to meet daily operational expenses and implement new development projects," the GBA's chief commissioner cautioned.

As of October 2025, property tax collection across the five municipal zones under the Greater Bengaluru Authority stands significantly below target, with only ₹3,402.20 crore collected against the set goal of ₹6,700 crore — a shortfall of ₹3,297.80 crore, or about 49.2%. Among the zones, Bengaluru West recorded the highest collection of ₹904.93 crore against a target of ₹1,673.46 crore, followed by Bengaluru North with ₹658.89 crore against ₹1,281.59 crore. Bengaluru Central collected ₹638.60 crore of its ₹1,273.78 crore target, Bengaluru South ₹614.19 crore of `1,228.85 crore, and Bengaluru East ₹559.58 crore of ₹1,242.33 crore.

Number game

- Target: ₹6,700 crore
- Collected so far: ₹3,402 crore
- Arrears: ₹648 crore (2.36 lakh defaulters)
- Unregistered Properties: 41,393 (₹94.35 crore loss)
- Underreported Assets: 10,432 (₹156.71 crore due)

Tax arrears

Out of 3,62,834 registered property owners, as many as 2.36 lakh continue to default on payments, collectively owing ₹648.41 crore in back taxes. While 1.25 lakh owners have cleared dues worth ₹297.07 crore, the majority have failed to pay despite repeated notices.

Under the One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme — which offered waiver of interest and penalties — most owners still did not avail themselves of the benefit. "If dues are not settled within a month, properties will be seized or auctioned,"said a GBA official/

Demand notices with penalties have been issued to all defaulters. In some cases, properties have already been attached. With no improvement, officials plan to recover dues through auction of movable and immovable assets. Officials, including revenue officers, assistant officers, and tax inspectors, have been instructed to conduct door-to-door recovery drives.

"Due to the ongoing social and educational surveys, tax collection activities have slowed temporarily. Once the surveys conclude, we will intensify recovery efforts. Municipal commissioners have been given full authority to prioritise revenue collection to ensure financial stability," added another official.

Garbage Dumping Festival turns littering shame into civic awakening

BSWML's bold campaign returns dumped waste to offenders' homes, collecting fines and sparking reflection on Bengaluru's waste habits and responsibility

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The next time you think of tossing garbage on the roadside, think again — because the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) is watching. In an unusual yet impactful awareness drive, the civic body has launched what it calls a "Garbage Dumping Festival," where those caught littering find the same garbage dumped right back in front of their homes.

At 218 locations across the city, BSWML teams carried out this striking campaign to teach residents a hard-hitting lesson on civic responsibility. Households identified for roadside dumping were greeted in the morning with piles of garbage placed in front of their gates — a taste of their own medicine. Fines totalling ₹2.8 lakh were collected from the 218 offending households. "This initiative aims to make residents realise how unpleasant it feels when waste is dumped irresponsibly," said Karegowda, CEO of BSWML, adding that the waste was cleared soon after the exercise to avoid inconvenience to neighbours.

Despite daily collection by autotippers from every home under the Greater Bengaluru Authority, some residents still choose to dump garbage stealthily at night on roads, vacant plots, or corners. To catch these habitual offenders, BSWML teams have turned into silent watchers — monitoring, recording, and marking violators for the next day's doorstep "return delivery," a move that has drawn both public applause and curiosity on social media.

Civic teams tracked night-time dumpers and "returned" their garbage the next morning with an unmissable message on accountability and cleanliness

From night dumpers to doorstep lessons — Bengaluru's unique drive merges punishment with awareness, reminding citizens that cleanliness begins, quite literally, at their own gates

To eliminate garbage black spots, the civic body is also setting up 65 waste kiosks across Bengaluru, each equipped with four 100-litre bins for segregated waste. The first kiosk in BTM Layout has received positive feedback, allowing citizens to drop garbage free of charge during fixed hours and encouraging proper segregation and disposal.

In addition, a dedicated WhatsApp helpline (9448197197) has been launched for citizens to report uncollected garbage or black spots. Residents can send photos and location details to ensure quick cleanup by officials and real-time monitoring of complaints.

BSWML's message is clear — cleanliness begins at your doorstep. Those who continue to litter will face the stench of their own neglect. Through innovative initiatives like the Garbage Dumping Festival and new waste kiosks, Bengaluru's civic body is not just cleaning streets but reshaping civic behaviour — turning responsibility into the city's next big clean-up mission.

City's elite enclaves boil over rooftop music madness

Environmentalists and residents warn the nightlife surge near the park violates silence zone norms and endangers birds, small mammals, and natural sound balance

Iffath Fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents living on Lavelle Road, Kasturba Road, and Vittal Mallya Road have raised concerns over hospitality groups and executive apartments of well-known hotels in the Central Business District (CBD) area seeking permission from the police to play live and recorded DJ music. A public notice was issued, and the police invited suggestions or objections.

Residents of Shanthala Nagar Ward 114 (formerly Ward 111), located around the city's central business district, have expressed serious concerns and sent a letter highlighting the increasing noise pollution from restaurants, bars, lounges, and event venues operating late into the night. They say loud music, DJ events, and parties — often held on rooftops and open terraces — have become a constant source of disturbance on weekends, midweek nights, and even throughout Sundays.

"Despite repeated complaints to local representatives and the police, the noise violations continue unabated, with little enforcement of sound pollution norms or operating time restrictions. We are struggling to cope with the continuous noise

that disrupts our peace and affects our health. Adding to the problem, nearby educational institutions frequently rent out their grounds for events that use loudspeakers from early morning to late evening, further worsening the situation," said a resident from Lavelle Road.

Members of the We Love Cubbon Park group, which is also part of the Cubbon Park Conservation Committee, have voiced concerns that this issue goes beyond residential discomfort.

"This area is adjacent to Cubbon Park, which is designated and gazetted as a silent zone and an urban biodiversity hotspot that needs to be protected," said Sunita Kumar from We Love Cubbon Park.

Groups like Heritage Beku and We Love Cubbon Park say police approvals for live DJ events risk permanent ecological harm and flout Supreme Court-mandated noise restrictions

Priya Chetty Rajagopal from Heritage Beku said, "The very consideration and public notice of such applications are fundamentally contradictory to the established legal framework. It is a violation of Supreme Court orders. The Honourable Supreme Court of India, in its landmark ruling on noise pollution, unequivocally established the Right to Peace, Sleep, and Silence as an intrinsic part of the Fundamental Right to Life under Article 21. Cubbon Park falls squarely under the definition of a silence zone, where the prescribed ambient noise limit is strictly capped at 50 dB(A) during the day and 40 dB(A) at night, as per the CPCB Noise Pollution Rules, 2000. The repeated and widely reported raucous noise from previous and proposed events easily surpasses these standards, treating a critical ecological space with impunity."

She further added that the indiscriminate allowance of loud, inappropriate sound is causing irretrievable damage to the park's delicate ecosystem. "The biodiversity of Cubbon Park, including essential bird species, small mammals, and insects, is highly sensitive to acoustic disturbance. Excessive noise disrupts their communication, foraging, breeding cycles, and anti-predator behaviour, leading to habitat displacement and a decline in species richness," she said.

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Degraded habitats leave fewer spaces to breed, lesser food

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cues, and were confirmed by referring to existing field guides.

Ill-effects of soup-bowl structure

The study has also underlined that the 'soup bowl' structure of lake rejuvenation with steep slopes, pitched with stones, while aesthetically pleasing for human use, harms biodiversity.

Researchers also assessed the pollution level of the 32 locations by examining the prevalence of sewage, solid waste, and construction debris across the 16 sq km grid. The locations were categorised as 'heavily polluted' if wetlands had industrial waste, domestic sewage, and if solid waste and construction debris were dumped; 'moderately polluted' if there was domestic sewage in the water and solid waste was dumped, and 'least polluted' if there were no signs of domestic sewage and solid waste.

As many as seven out of the 32 sampling sites were found to be 'least polluted', nine were moderately polluted, and 16 were found to be heavily polluted. All the wetlands studied were found to be polluted because they all had some solid waste surrounding sampling sites.

Researchers found only two species in polluted water bodies: the Cricket frog and the common toad. They say this may be because the habitats are degraded, leading to fewer food resources or safe spaces to breed. Generally, amphibians are sensitive to environmental perturbations, and bad water quality affects the survivorship of eggs. Their finding of two species suggests that those are the most resilient to disturbance, and other, more sensitive species are eliminated from polluted wetlands in heavily urbanised areas of the city.

"As amphibians, frogs and toads need both water and land to survive. When lakes, ponds, and smaller water bodies are polluted, the eggs and tadpoles of these frogs are exposed to toxins and have less access to clean and safe food. Many of these tadpoles and eggs live in the shallow water at the edges of water bodies. In polluted places, these are also clogged with trash. All these human-created debris and toxins directly impact their survival," said Maria Thaker from the Center for Ecological Sciences, IISc.

Legislation, community participation

Experts say a combination of good enforced legislation and community responsibility can go a long way to maintaining frog and toad ecosystems for biodiversity.

According to Seshadri KS from ATREE, the only checklist of frogs in the city was from 1999.

Now that we have an updated list, we should be monitoring frogs and their populations.

"Bengaluru is still governed by the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act of 1964. We need to amend laws to include biodiversity-inclusive water body management. The urbanisation of the city needs to be planned, and we should have regional master plans for the city that include protecting natural areas, such as wetlands, parks, and green spaces in public institutions. We should also re-evaluate the way we build new water bodies. Ones with steep cement walls are not suitable for frogs, toads, and even many aquatic birds. Building them with shallow banks will provide the necessary habitat for these animals," said Seshadri.

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I, Rizwana Shaikh R/o No 42 4th A Cross Ilyas Nagar J P Nagar Bengaluru 560078 Have changed my Name to Rizwana Begum for All Purposes

I, Shravan Mahipal s/o Kudige Mahipal Shankarappa Gowda R/o Nikunj Anupinakatte road, Tunga Lyt, Shivamogga 577205 have changed my name to Shravan Mahipal Kudige. I shall called by this name for all purposes

Change of Name

I, **Misurendra Babu,** r/at No. 301, Prestige Four Seasons, 16, Brunton Road, Bangalore 560025 have changed my name to **M Surendra Babu** for all practical purposes vide affidavit dt. 30.10.2025 sworn before Notary **Gangaraju B N,** Bangalore.

I, Sanjana S, R/o 7, Keshava Nilaya, 5th cross, new bank colony, Chunchaghatta main road, Konanakunte, Bengaluru 560062 have changed my minor daughter name from Lashika Arunkumar to Lashika. Affidavit Dt.30/10/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, SADANANDA UPADHYA R/o. No. 78, Sy No 46, K L Ring View Apt. 104, Outer Ring Road, Chowdeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru- 58 have changed my name to SADANANDA UPADHYA HEBRI vide Affidavit dt. 28.10.2025. sworn before notary Mr. C Srinivas, Bengaluru

I, PABBATHI PAVANI, Residing at B -703, Sattva Opus, 8th Mile Circle, T Dasarahalli, Bangalore – 560057, have changed my name to PABBATHI VENKATA VASAVI DEVI PAVANI, vide affidavit dated 13/09/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore

I, PABATHI HEMANTH, Residing at B -703, Sattva Opus, 8th Mile Circle, T Dasarahalli, Bangalore – 560057, have changed my name to PABBATHI HEMANTH, vide affidavit dated 26/06/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, IMRANA BANO, R/a.# 108, Bhoopasandra, Bengaluru-94. I, have Changed my name to IMRANA BANU Vide affidavit dated 30/10/2025 Sworn before Notary R Basavaraja Bangalore

I, Ramalakshmi S, C/O Ganesh Gowtham r/o G02 Aashrayaa Eternia, 3rd block 6th main, Vishwapriya Layout, Bangalore-560068 have changed my name to Ramalakshmi by affidavit dated 28/10/2025.

I,TAMIL Selvi W/o Thandapani R/o #1651,40th A Cross,4th T Block 18th Main Road jayanagar B'luru-560041 have changed my name to Tamil Selvi Thandapani

LOST & FOUND

Document Lost

I, B S Shivashankar, r/at 1042, 10th Main Rd, Vijayanagar, Bangalore 560068 have lost my Property Document No. 989/1975-76, Address: Municipal No. 34, PID No. 41-22-34, Old Site 34, Khata No. 27, 1st Main Rd, 10th Cross, Deepanjali Nagar, Mysore Rd, Bangalore 560026. Police complaint given vide L R No. 1874829/2025, dt. 29.10.2025. If found, please contact: **7019888930**

GALLERIA

'No OTP, no approval, yet money debited'

Woman loses over Rs 90,000 in bank fraud, claims bank approved transactions even though they were not authorised by her; bank denies liability, asserting that one-time passwords had been used

INFOCUS MONEY MISHAP

Debit card holders face the risk of unauthorised debits without prior knowledge, as banks may classify such transactions as duly authorised e-commerce payments, raising serious security concerns.

In a shocking incident, Ritu Maheshwari, an account holder at a private sector bank, discovered three unauthorised transactions of Rs 30,300 each (total Rs 90,900) on her account. It is said that the three transactions were executed between 3.24 am and 4.03 am when she was asleep. In an email, Maheshwari explained that the bank still cleared the debits even though she neither authorised nor participated in the transactions. "I did not confirm any transaction by SMS, WhatsApp or phone calls," said Maheshwari, adding that she never submitted any OTPs either. She stated that she also did not confirm any second-factor authentication. However, the bank denied liability, asserting that the transactions were authorised as one-time passwords (OTPs) had been used.

Mico Layout police registered a first information report (FIR) on October 3, 2025, based on a complaint by Maheshwari. The FIR was registered under the Sections 66(C), 66(D) of the Information Technology Act, 2000. In her complaint, Maheshwari urged the police to take appropriate action against those responsible for the three unauthorised transactions carried out via a UPI-based payment platform.

The manager of the private sector bank declined to comment on the issue, stating that queries should be directed to the marketing team via email, as they were not authorised to share details. The bank has yet to reply to the email.

Three transactions went through before card was blocked, exposing lapse in bank's real-time fraud checks, says woman

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Ritu Maheshwari said that she immediately reported the issue to the bank at 4.37 am, and a complaint was registered by the bank on October 1, 2025, at 7.20 am.

She said that according to the email sent by the bank at 4.09 am on October 1, 2025, the bank had identified suspicious transactions and proactively blocked the card prior to the complaint being filed. "The fact that three transactions were processed before the card was blocked by the bank itself suggests a potential lapse in the bank's real-time fraud detection systems," she opined. As instructed by the bank, she contacted the National Cyber Crime helpline at 1930 and registered a complaint on October 1. She subsequently filed an FIR at Mico Layout Police Station. The bank was notified within hours, well within the Reserve Bank of India's three working-day reporting window. She said that she has not been provided any explanation regarding how the transaction was deemed authorised, despite the absence of a response to any confirmation or any other form of consent from the account holder.

She said that the bank is now trying to avoid liability because of its breach of data and weak security. "The bank has taken no responsibility for their system failure, and that has caused an innocent customer to lose her hard-earned money. I request the bank to refund my money without further delay," she said.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

CRIME FILES

Worker dies in scaffolding collapse

A 35-year-old labourer died after a structure collapsed during renovation work at a four-storey building on Mahadevapura Main Road on Thursday evening. The deceased has been identified as Yusuf Sharif, of Haveri.

According to the police, Sharif was working on the scaffolding when it suddenly gave way, causing him to fall from a height and sustain fatal injuries. He died on the spot. Three others, including Tanuja and Akash, were injured in the incident and have been admitted to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Akash and his wife Tanuja, who were married a year ago, had stopped for tea at a shop located below the building when the wooden and metal supports suddenly gave way. Yusuf, who was working on the upper level, fell from the structure and died on the spot.

Tanuja, who was drinking tea, suffered a broken spine, while Akash sustained an injury to his hand. Both are being treated at a private hospital. The body of deceased Yusuf Sharif has been shifted to Boring Hospital.

The building, owned by Abdul Wajid, was undergoing renovation when the accident occurred. Preliminary investigation by the Mahadevapura police suggests that negligence on the part of the building owner led to the collapse. Officials said a case will be registered against the owner for failing to ensure worker safety and proper structural support during the renovation.

BMB

Trusted caretaker cheats employer of years, arrested for stealing

A 59-year-old woman who trusted her long-time caretaker like a daughter was left devastated after discovering that the woman had allegedly stolen gold, silver, and cash to fund her extravagant lifestyle and online gambling addiction.

The JP Nagar police have arrested the accused, Mangala (32), who hails from T Narasipura in Mysuru. She had been working as a caretaker for Asha Jadhav, a resident of JP Nagar 2nd Phase, for nearly a decade.

Asha had hired Mangala ten years ago to look after her bedridden mother. After her mother's death, Mangala continued to stay with Asha, who lived alone, having lost her husband and having no children. Impressed by Mangala's dedication, Asha had grown emotionally attached to her, even planning to transfer property worth crores in her name and arrange her marriage.

However, police said Mangala developed an addiction to online betting and partying, which led to mounting debts. Although Asha helped her clear some dues, Mangala allegedly continued her habits. Following a heated argument, she left the job a month ago.

Before leaving, she reportedly stole 450 grams of gold ornaments, 3.8 kg of silver articles, and Rs 1 lakh in cash by taking the cupboard key and later disposing of it in a deserted spot. Asha realised the theft only during Deepavali when she opened the cupboard with a duplicate key.

BMB

HIGH COURT

RSS Convenor to meet officials on November 5

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday (October 30) directed RSS Kalaburagi Convenor Ashok Patil to meet district authorities on November 5 at the office of the Advocate General (AG) in connection with the proposed Pathasanchalana (march) at Chittapur town.

Justice MGS Kamal, hearing the matter, said the meeting should also be attended by senior advocate Aruna Shyam, representing the petitioner, and Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty to guide the modalities. The proposed march was earlier scheduled for November 2.

This will be the second meeting between the organisers and the authorities. Earlier, on October 24, the court had directed the state government to hold a peace-committee meeting on October 28, after noting that there was existing tension in Chittapur over the proposed event.

During Thursday's hearing, senior advocate Shyam informed the court that "responsible members" of the organisation had attended the October 28 meeting. He explained that the petitioner could not be present due to a bereavement in his family but had deputed others in his place.

The Advocate General, however, contended that the petitioner had "virtually evaded notice" and failed to cooperate with the process despite being informed of the meeting. He said, "If they had sought another date, we would have accommodated. The State wants to find a solution, but the petitioner's conduct appears politically motivated."

Justice Kamal observed that the court's intention was to facilitate dialogue and avoid escalation.

The court then suggested another opportunity for both sides to meet and arrive at an amicable resolution. With the consent of both parties, the next meeting has been fixed for November 5 at 5 pm in the Advocate General's office in Bengaluru.

BMB

'Suspension doesn't cancel subsistence entitlement'

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that payment of subsistence allowance is mandatory in all circumstances of an employee's suspension, emphasising that "he cannot be denied his statutory subsistence allowance."

Justice M Nagaprasanna made the observation while allowing a petition filed by Basavaraj Pundalikappa and quashing the suspension order issued against him on July 22, 2025. The petitioner, who joined the Bagalkote Municipal Council as an attender in 1985 and completed 41 years of service, was serving as a revenue officer when a complaint was lodged before the Lokayukta in 2015 alleging demand of illegal gratification.

Although the trap was laid against another officer, Pundalikappa was also taken into custody for 96 hours and later released on bail. He was subsequently suspended on the ground that he had been in custody for more than 48 hours. The petitioner contended that the suspension was issued "without application of mind" and that not a single rupee of subsistence allowance had been paid to him. He also pointed out that only five months of service remained and that he had maintained an unblemished record.

The State, in response, argued that suspension was automatic when an employee remained in custody beyond 48 hours and that subsistence allowance would be paid only if directed.

Holding the order illegal, arbitrary, and unsustainable, the court quashed the suspension but granted liberty to the State to post the petitioner "in any other position commensurate with administrative exigencies."

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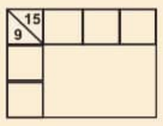
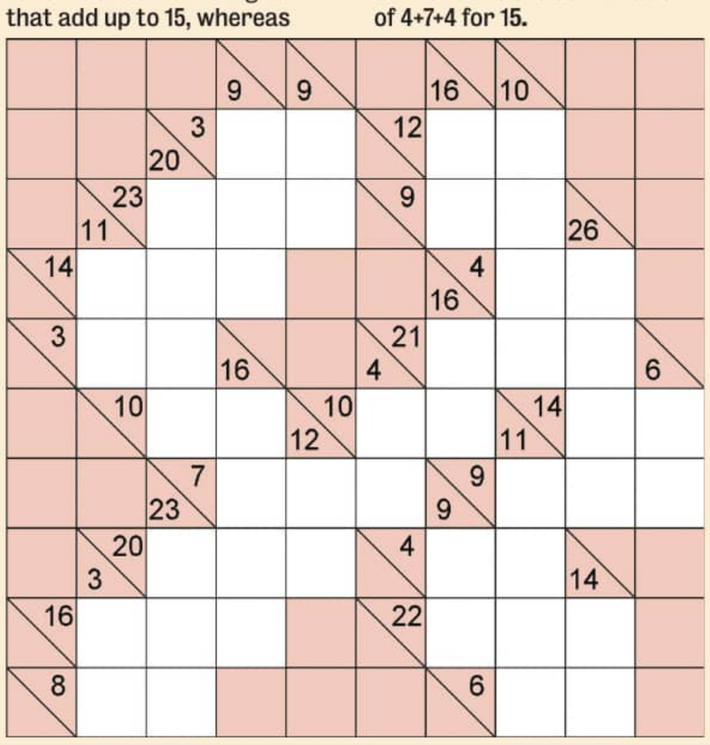
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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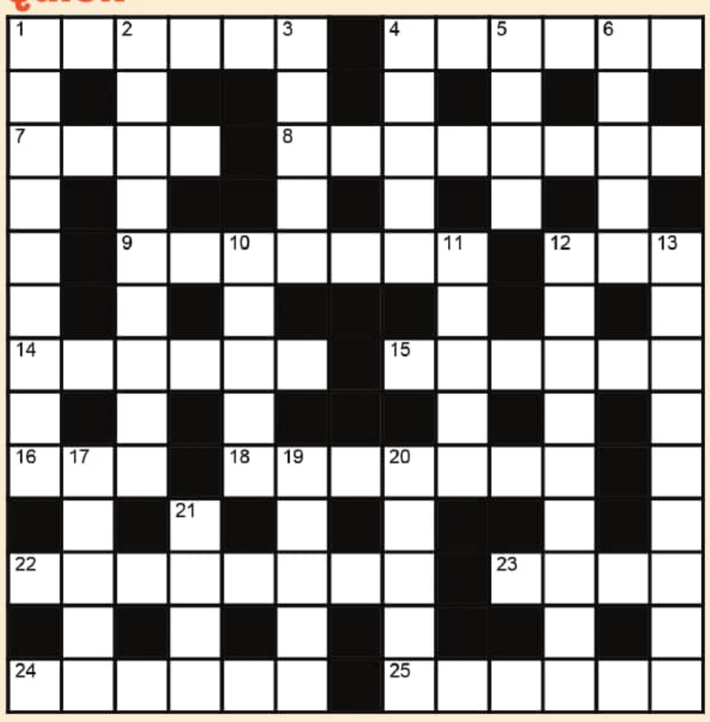


ACROSS

1 Teased; made fun of (6)
4 Become famous (6)
7 This vegetable sounds as if it won't hold water! (4)
8 Took a firm stand (8)
9 Where three rivers meet in Karnataka (7)
12 Any doctrine (3)
14 Extension to hotel (6)
15 Adolescents (6)
16 Aliens? (3)
18 Form of energy (7)
22 Barriers of artillery fire (8)
23 Very happy (4)
24 Sticking points (6)
25 Remained (6)

DOWN

1 Multi-participant sporting contest (5,4)
2 Graces, godsends (9)
3 Passing away (5)
4 Guwahati locale (5)
5 Reflecting optimism (4)
6 Vistas (5)
10 Former US president (5)
11 Superior to (5)
12 Give-and-take, in a way? (9)
13 Gave bad advice (9)
17 Ambushes (5)
19 Strong desires (5)
20 Is bested (5)
21 Pakistani language (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS P

HSV PMK GMOX GSQX EQLXKBY LK ZNS GSKZTY CH CXPSGLKR LKZXQXYZXB LK SZTXQ FXSFUX ZTMK HSV PMK LK ZNS HXMQY CH ZQHLKR ZS RXZ SZTXQ FXSFUX LKZXQXYZXB LK HSV.

Linemaro

We're like a fourleaf clover. You're the C and I'm the R, and there's love between us

Mindchow

We should not judge people by their peak of excellence; but by the distance they have travelled from the point where they started

Joke of the day

I've always wanted to go to Switzerland to see what the army does with those wee red knives

Loop

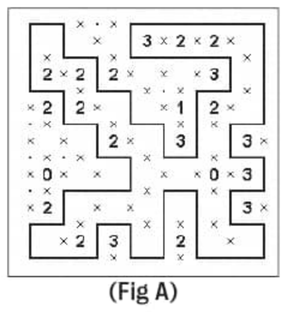
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

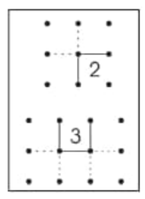
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

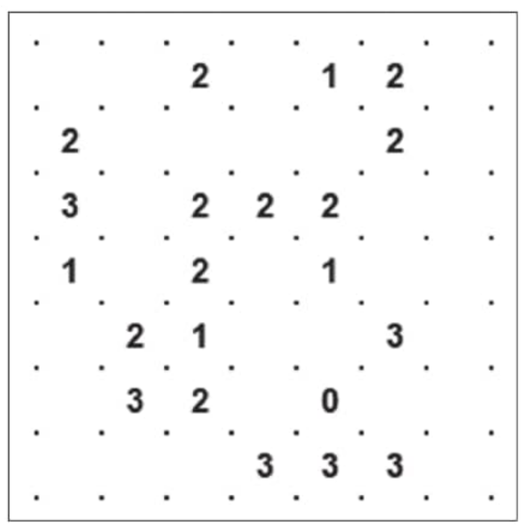
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



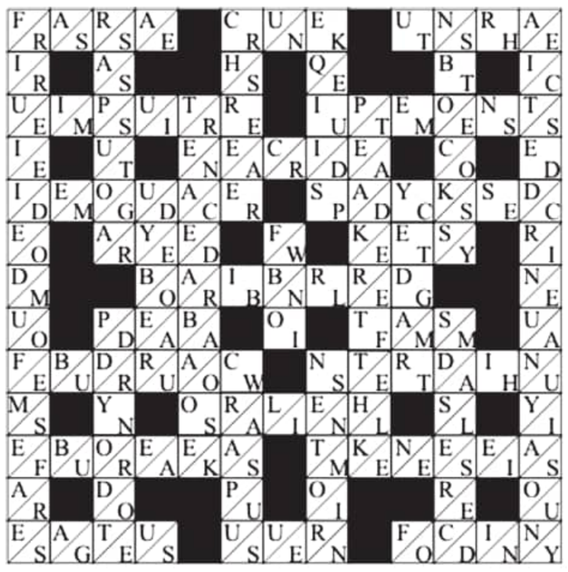
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



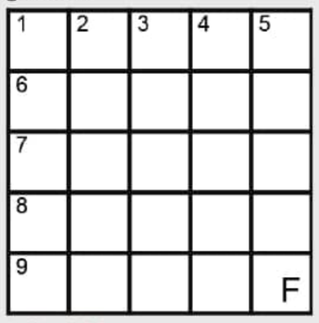
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 An ATM; 6 Or cha; 7 Raid I; 8 Maine; 9 Fries

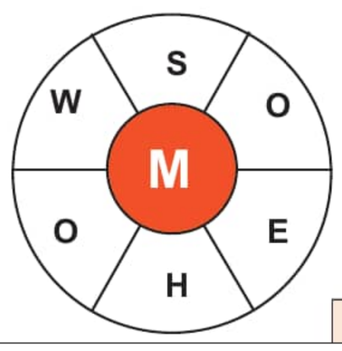
DOWN

1 Roams; 2 A mare; 3 Indra; 4 In CIA; 5 He Fit

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **07** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			9		6			
	9		7	3		5	4	
3		2		8				
						4	2	
2		6				1		7
	8	7						
				6		8		9
	4	1		7	2		3	
			1		5			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 6

3 3 6 6

Medium

= 11

4 5 6 6

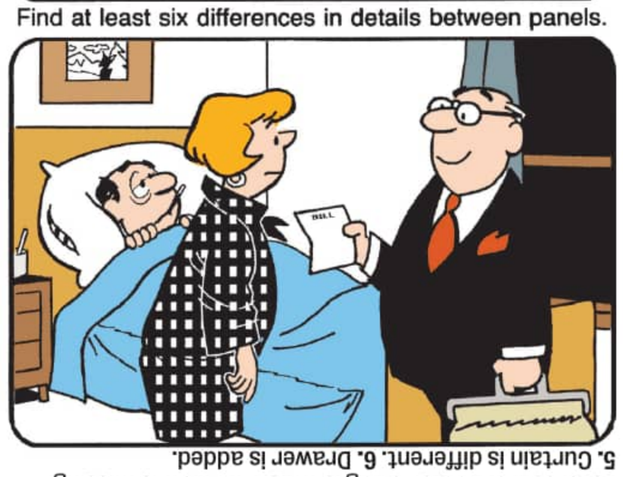
Hard

= 24

5 7 8 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



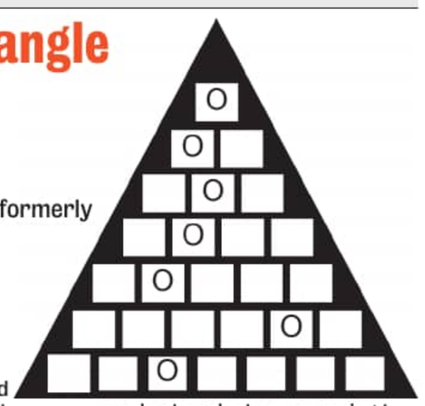
Differences: 1. Thermometer is moved. 2. Picture on wall is reversed. 3. Doctor's bag is wider. 4. Pillow is missing. 5. Curtain is different. 6. Drawer is added.

Riddler

Add together each of the defined words to get a whole new word. 1) A vehicle + an animal pal = a floor covering. 2) The ocean + a father's boy = part of the year. 3) Another name for dad + a yellow veggie = a white fluffy snack.

Alpha triangle

1 Circular letter
2 _ target
3 Eggy beverage
4 Ballad or ditty
5 Panaji natives
6 Ho Chi Minh City, formerly
7 Suffer torment



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

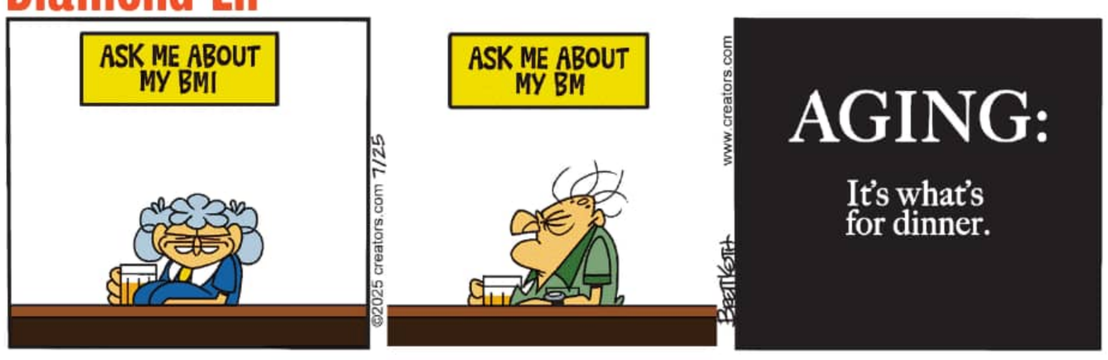
COMICS

Popeye

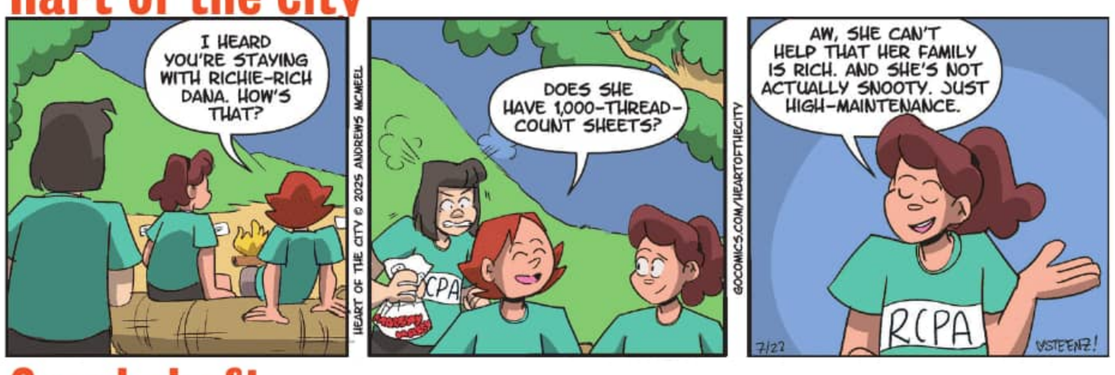
YA EVEN THINKS ALIKE?
OF COURSE! CLONES HAVE THE SAME BRAINS AND MEMORIES!!
WE'RE ALL MADE FROM THE CELLS OF OUR GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S BIG TOE!
HOT DORG! A PHONEY-GRAPH!
1-30
©2025 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil



Hart of the city


I HEARD YOU'RE STAYING WITH RICHIE-RICH DANA. HOW'S THAT?
DOES SHE HAVE 1,000-THREAD-COUNT SHEETS?
AW, SHE CAN'T HELP THAT HER FAMILY IS RICH. AND SHE'S NOT ACTUALLY SNOOTY. JUST HIGH-MAINTENANCE.
CPA
RCPA
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

SO, AGAIN, I ASK... HAVE YOU SEEN MY BOMBERS GAME T-SHIRT?
IT'S IN THE WASH.
IT'S BEEN IN THE WASH FOR A MONTH NOW!
I KNOW... THE SPIN CYCLE SEEMS TO BE TAKING FOREVER THESE DAYS!
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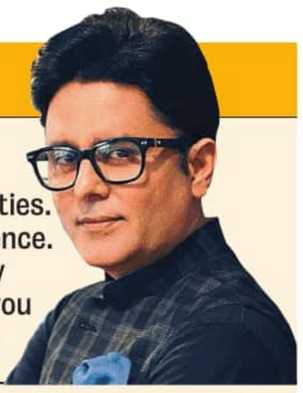
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
7-22

Mutts

WE'RE HERE! LET THE VACATION BEGIN!
THE BEACH! AGAIN!?! Foo.
WE NEVER GO ON SHAFARI.
mutts.com
PATTY © PETER J. MCDONNELL / DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE 7-22

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

A transformative year awaits, filled with bold choices and fresh opportunities. Career ambitions thrive with courage. Finances stabilise through persistence. Relationships grow stronger through honesty and loyalty. Creative energy inspires renewal. Health benefits from mindful routines. Challenges push you toward empowerment. By year's end, you'll celebrate a journey of growth.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Creative ideas flow strongly today. Share them clearly, gaining recognition and support. Collaboration ensures successful execution. Your imagination sparks possibilities, turning thoughts into action.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Showcase your strengths proudly, avoiding imitation. Confidence boosts growth. Stop undermining your abilities—your skills hold value. Embrace authenticity, proving your worth to others.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Treat others with fairness. Avoid expecting what you cannot reciprocate. Support friends genuinely, showing commitment. Balanced eort in relationships prevents loss. Compassion sustains bonds, ensuring trust and loyalty remain strong today.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Peace surrounds you at work and home. Colleagues cooperate, and family understands. Unexpected professional blessings arrive, fulfilling hidden desires. Maintain hope—events align in your favour.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Work focus may strain relationships. Avoid harsh criticism toward loved ones. Practise patience and empathy. Understanding emotions builds harmony. Balance professional drive with compassion that sustain your personal happiness.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Hectic responsibilities overwhelm. Planning and prioritising ease the pressure. Stay organised, tackling tasks one at a time. Avoid stress by structuring your eorts carefully, ensuring productivity while maintaining emotional balance.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Loved ones may need comfort today. Avoid excessive practicality—show warmth and empathy. Support their struggles with patience. Sensitivity strengthens relationships, reminding others you care deeply.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Independence fuels progress today. New responsibilities highlight your skills. Handletasks personally, ensuring recognition flows directly to you. Determination and self-reliance showcase your abilities, elevating your reputation and career trajectory forward.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Ambition runs high, yet patience is needed. Not all goals are immediate. Focus on realistic targets already unfolding. Progress arrives steadily. Trust the timing, maintaining calm and persistence to achieve lasting success.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Restlessness stems from overwork and stress. Share burdens where possible. Avoid carrying everything alone. Take a break; your body and mind need rest. Balance returns once you allow recovery and support.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Surprises arrive unexpectedly today. At first unsettling, they open new opportunities. Stay open-minded, embracing change positively. Challenges transform into stepping stones when approached with courage, curiosity for growth.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Act quickly today—time feels limited. Avoid procrastination. Eciency highlights your talents, earning respect. Stay alert, completing tasks promptly. Swiftness ensures progress.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Arjitha, 9 years, New Baldwin International School

Dhruva Gadasalli Naik, 6 years, Kumaran's School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√81+(1+2)^3 = 9+(1+6+12+8) = 9+27 = 36

BULL'S EYE
homme, meow, mesh, moose, some, SOMEHOW, whom

RIDDLER
1) car + pet = carpet, 2) sea + son = season & 3) pop + corn = popcorn.

STRIKE OUT

F	A	R	E	C	U	E	U	S	H	A	S	G	T	S
R	A	H	Q	U	T	M	O	S	T	C	E	R	I	E
E	M	P	I	R	E	U	T	E	C	K	E	D	E	O
D	E	O	D	A	R	P	A	C	K	E	D	O	R	E
O	M	R	E	D	F	K	E	Y	I	N	U	M	O	R
N	U	T	H	S	I	S	M	A	N	D	O	F	U	R
I	S	M	A	G	N	A	R	I	V	E	D	I	S	T
A	S	N	G	R	A	M	S	T	R	A	I	N	S	E
C	O	N	F	E	S	S	I	O	N	S	E	S	S	I
E	L	E	K	T	R	I	C	I	T	Y	O	R	K	S
L	E	G	A	L	E	A	G	L	E	P	O	R	T	S
E	L	B	O	W	S	T	R	A	I	N	S	T	O	P
R	I	B	E	D	A	R	R	I	V	E	D	A	S	S

FAST FIVE

M	A	N	A	T
O	R	A	C	H
R	A	D	I	S
A	M	I	N	E
S	E	R	I	F

QUOTE UNCODE
You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.

QUICK

R	I	B	E	D	A	R	R	I	V	E	D	I	S	S
Y	S	A	N	G	A	M	A	I	S	M	I	N	E	S
A	S	N	I	A	N	E	X	E	Y	O	U	T	H	S
L	E	E	K	I	N	S	I	S	T	E	D	A	S	S
E	L	Y	O	S	E	S	T	A	Y	E	D	E	D	E
B	A	R	R	A	G	E	S	G	L	A	D	E	P	D
E	T	S	N	U	C	L	E	A	R	U	I	R	E	U
C	G	O	V	E	G	O	U	T	H	S	R	I	N	S
A	N	N	E	X	E	Y	O	U	T	H	S	I	N	I
R	I	I	B	E	D	A	M	A	I	S	M	I	S	T
A	S	N	G	R	A	M	A	I	S	M	I	S	T	E
L	E	E	K	I	N	S	I	S	T	E	D	E	L	E
E	L	Y	O	S	E	S	T	A	Y	E	D	E	L	E
B	A	R	R	A	G	E	S	G	L	A	D	E	P	D
E	T	S	N	U	C	L	E	A	R	U	I	R	E	U
C	G	O	V	E	G	O	U	T	H	S	R	I	N	S
A	N	N	E	X	E	Y	O	U	T	H	S	I	N	I
R	I	I	B	E	D	A	M	A	I	S	M	I	S	T

MENSA PUZZLE
6. Starting on the extreme left and right hand of the row and working towards the centre, add the end digits together and sub-tract 3 to give the next value along to the left, and add 1 to give the next value along to the right. Repeat this sequence, working towards the centre.

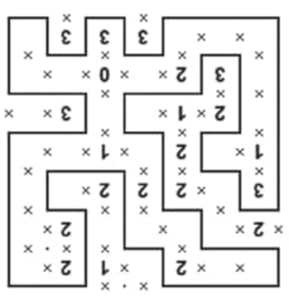
SUDOKU

5	1	4	9	2	6	7	8	3
6	9	8	7	3	1	5	4	2
3	7	2	5	8	4	9	6	1
1	3	9	6	5	7	4	2	8
2	5	6	3	4	8	1	9	7
4	8	7	2	1	9	3	5	6
7	2	5	4	6	3	8	1	9
9	4	1	8	7	2	6	3	5
8	6	3	1	9	5	2	7	4

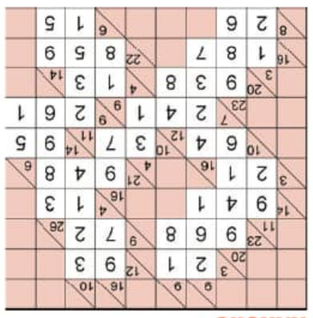
ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, On, Nog, Song, Goans, Saigon, Agonise.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 - 3 - 3 + 6 = 6
Medium
4 + 6 - 5 + 6 = 11
Hard
5 x 8 - 9 - 7 = 24

LOOP



KAKURO



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Lucky mascot
Kannada film actress Rachita Ram on Thursday expressed gratitude after being chosen as the brand ambassador of the autorickshaw drivers' association

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Entertainment Industry Promotion

THEY ARE ROYALTY

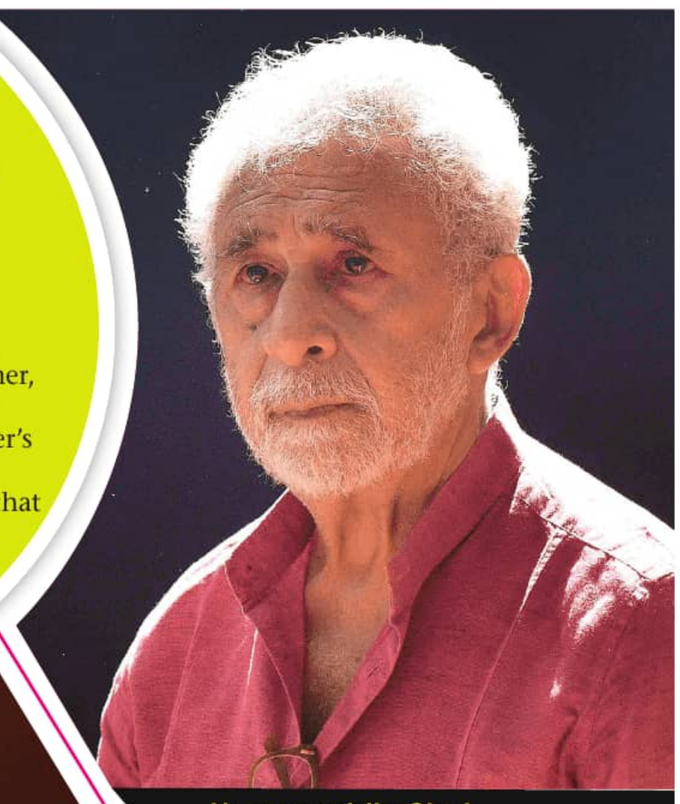
Saif, Aditi, Bhagyashree, and more: Bollywood celebrities who belong to royal lineage

Sagarika Ghatge

Sagarika Ghatge is famous for her role in 'Chak De! India' is also a royal by birth; her family is from Kagal, a town in Kolhapur. Her father, Vijaysinh Ghatge, is a descendant of Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur while her Grandmother, Sita Raje Ghatge, was a daughter of Maharaja Tukojirao Holkar III of Indore. Sagarika, through her smooth and noble nature, shows off her royal blood even beyond the screen.

Aditi Rao Hydari

Aditi Rao Hydari is a descendant of royalty on both her parents' side. Her father's grandfather, Sir Akbar Hydari, was the Prime Minister of Hyderabad State. On the other hand, her mother's side is a lineage of Raja J. Rameshwar Rao, the last ruling Raja of the town of Wanaparthy that is presently in Telangana. The way I see it, Aditi's regal roots now come across as her shining and charming personality in the movies.



Naseeruddin Shah

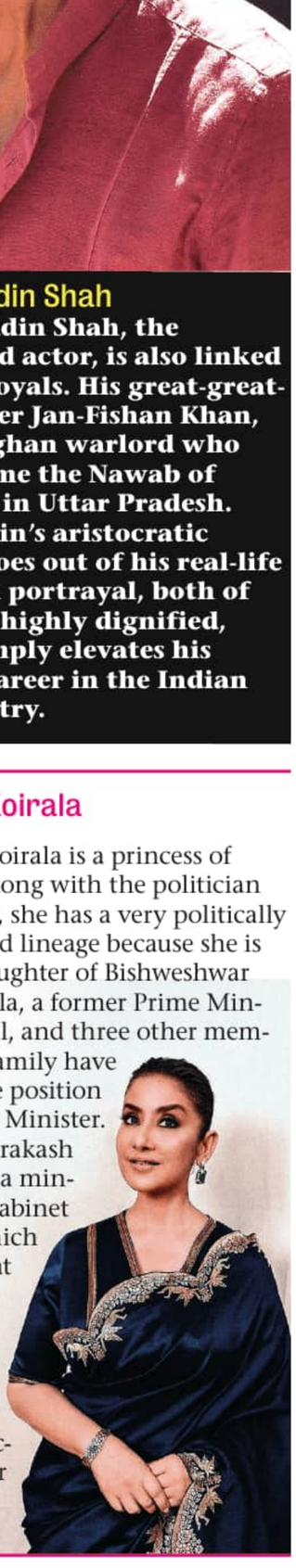
Naseeruddin Shah, the seasoned actor, is also linked with the royals. His great-great-grandfather Jan-Fishan Khan, was an Afghan warlord who later became the Nawab of Sardhana, in Uttar Pradesh. Naseeruddin's aristocratic heritage goes out of his real-life and screen portrayal, both of which are highly dignified, thus, it simply elevates his versatile career in the Indian film industry.

Bhagyashree

Another example of a well-known actress with royal ancestry is Bhagyashree, of 'Maine Pyar Kiya' fame. Bhagyashree is from the Patwardhan royal family of Sangli, which is in Maharashtra. Her father, Vijay Singhrao Patwardhan, is the currently titular Raja of Sangli. Bhagyashree might have royal heritage, but she is very down to earth and has a captivating charm about her, as displayed when an audience member sits in rapt attention while watching her.

Manisha Koirala

Manisha Koirala is a princess of Nepal, along with the politician descendants, she has a very politically distinguished lineage because she is the granddaughter of Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala, a former Prime Minister of Nepal, and three other members of her family have also held the position of the Prime Minister. Her father, Prakash Koirala, was a minister in the cabinet of Nepal, which indicates that her family is not only politically influential but also has royal connections in their family.



Saif Ali Khan and Soha Ali Khan

Saif Ali Khan, the Nawab of Bollywood, is the 10th Nawab of Pataudi. The heir continues to be Saif with the lineage, yet his sister Soha Ali Khan, a girl born after the abolition of royalty, does not hold the title of Nawab. Their grandfather Iftikhar Ali Khan Pataudi, was the last ruling Nawab and their grandmother, Sajida Sultan, was the Begum of Bhopal. The siblings not only have a royal ancestry but also they have been successful in contemporary Bollywood.

Riya Sen and Raima Sen

The rise of Riya and Raima Sen as actresses is partially due to the luxurious royal heritage they have through their father's side. Their grandmother, Ila Devi was the daughter of King Sayajirao Gaekwad III of Baroda and their great-grandmother, Indira Raje, was the Princess of Cooch Behar. Besides, they have the famous Suchitra Sen as their maternal grandmother. The Sen sisters are well-rooted in both the aristocratic and film worlds.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Virat to play Hercules

Promising actor Virat is set to play the lead in Hercules. It will be Virat's third movie as a hero after Kiss and Royal. A 200-ft first look poster was unveiled at a Konanakunte mall. Hercules is billed as the first Kannada movie in collaboration with ChatGPT. Bhageeratha makes his debut as a director with this movie.

"Hercules is the name of a warrior. I have been associated with Sandalwood as an associate director for the last 12 years. I have learnt a lot under the guidance of director Srinivasa Raju. The lead in the movie Hercules is known for success. This movie is an action and romance drama. I am trying to present Virat in a different avatar in this movie. We will choose a Kannada actress as the heroine. The movie will be ready for release in March or April 2026," said Bhageeratha.

Virat said the lead character has three shades. "I am changing my look for this movie. I am ready to do anything for its success," Virat said.

Audio launched

The audio of Bharathi Teacher Elane Tharagati was launched at a function organised at Dr H Narasimhaiah Convention Hall, National College. Dr V Vijayalakshmi of Davangere and businessman Veerakaputra Srinivas were the guests of honour . Raghavendra Reddy, a businessman from Siriguppa, debuts as a producer. ML Prasanna has handled the megaphone apart from writing the script, screenplay, dialogues, lyrics, and music for this movie.

The movie features Sihi Kahi Chandru, Yashika, Govinde Gowda, Ashwini Hassan, Divya Anchan, Benaka Nanjappa, Rohit Raghavendra, Soujanya Sunil, and MJ Rangaswamy. KM Indra has scored its music while Kambiraj worked as choreographer.

On the occasion, Dr V Nagendra Prasad of Music Bazaar said he bought the audio rights of the movie. "I am not a businessman. My objective is to encourage and support Kannada movies," said Prasad.

Prasanna said the movie revolves around a seventh grade student, who wants to spread the message of literacy in her village.